

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:

A complete listing of the claims is provided below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

What is claimed is:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently amended) A steam generator comprising:
a housing;
a substantially rigid, generally tubular vessel located within the housing;
a heating element located within the tubular vessel;
a water inlet configured to allow water to enter the tubular vessel;
a steam outlet configured to outlet steam from the tubular vessel and housing; and
~~The steam generator of claim 1, further comprising~~ a thermostat configured to monitor a temperature associated with the heating element and further configured to turn off the heating element when the heating element reaches a predetermined temperature.
6. (Original) The steam generator of claim 5, wherein the predetermined temperature is slightly above the boiling point of water.
7. (Previously Presented) A steam generator comprising:
a housing;

a tubular vessel located within the housing;
a heating element located within the tubular vessel;
a water inlet configured to allow water to enter the tubular vessel;
a steam outlet configured to outlet steam from the tubular vessel and housing; and
a thermostat configured to monitor a temperature associated with the heating element and further configured to turn off the heating element when the heating element reaches a predetermined temperature, wherein the thermostat automatically turns back on the heating element when the temperature associated with the heating element goes below a predetermined temperature.

8. (Original) The steam generator of claim 5, wherein the thermostat senses the temperature associated with the heating element at a top portion of the heating element.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A steam generator comprising:

a housing;

a substantially rigid, generally tubular vessel located within the housing;

a heating element located within the tubular vessel;

a water inlet configured to allow water to enter the tubular vessel;

a steam outlet configured to outlet steam from the tubular vessel and housing; and

~~The steam generator of claim 1, further comprising~~ an overflow pipe configured to drain at least one of water and steam from the tubular vessel when a pressure in the tubular vessel exceeds a predetermined limit.

11. (Previously presented) A steam generator comprising:

a housing;

a tubular vessel located within the housing;

a heating element located within the tubular vessel;
a water inlet configured to allow water to enter the tubular vessel;
a steam outlet configured to outlet steam from the tubular vessel and housing;
an overflow pipe configured to drain at least one of water and steam from the tubular vessel when a pressure in the tubular vessel exceeds a predetermined limit; and
a pressure sensor and a valve configured to sense a pressure within the tubular member and open the valve to provide fluid communication between an interior of the tubular member and an area outside the housing when the pressure exceeds the predetermined limit.

12. (Previously presented) A steam generator comprising:

a housing;
a tubular vessel located within the housing;
a heating element located within the tubular vessel;
a water inlet configured to allow water to enter the tubular vessel;
a steam outlet configured to outlet steam from the tubular vessel and housing; and
an overflow pipe configured to drain at least one of water and steam from the tubular vessel when a pressure in the tubular vessel exceeds a predetermined limit, wherein the overflow pipe provides fluid communication between an interior of the tubular vessel and a reservoir located outside the housing.

13. (Previously presented) A steam generator comprising:

a housing;
a tubular vessel located within the housing;
a heating element located within the tubular vessel;
a water inlet configured to allow water to enter the tubular vessel;
a steam outlet configured to outlet steam from the tubular vessel and housing; and

a variable mounting bracket configured to attach to the housing at any two of a bottom, side, end, and top portion of the housing and further configured to attach to a mounting surface for mounting the steam generator.

14. (Previously presented) A steam generator comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a tubular vessel located within the housing;
 - a heating element located within the tubular vessel;
 - a water inlet configured to allow water to enter the tubular vessel; and
 - a steam outlet configured to outlet steam from the tubular vessel and housing, wherein the steam generator is located within a test chamber and configured to humidify the test chamber.
15. (Previously Presented) A steam generator comprising:
 - a housing;
 - a tubular vessel located within the housing;
 - a heating element located within the tubular vessel;
 - a water inlet configured to allow water to enter the tubular vessel;
 - a steam outlet configured to outlet steam from the tubular vessel and housing;
 - a reservoir external to the housing, but in fluid communication to the tubular vessel via the inlet by piping extending through the housing and connected to the inlet; and
 - a float valve configured to regulate an amount of water coming into the reservoir.
16. (Original) The steam generator of claim 15, wherein the reservoir and tubular vessel are located with respect to each other to cause a water level both the reservoir and tubular to equalize with each other.
17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) A steam generator comprising:

- a housing;
- a steam chamber located within the housing;
- a heating element located within the steam chamber;
- a water inlet configured to allow water to enter the steam chamber;
- a steam outlet configured to outlet steam from the steam chamber and housing;
- a vessel located external to the steam chamber having an interior reservoir in fluid communication with the steam chamber such that a liquid level in the reservoir and a liquid level in the steam chamber will seek to achieve substantially the same level; and
- a valve associated with the vessel configured to regulate a liquid flow from an external source into the reservoir to achieve a desired liquid level in the reservoir.

19. (Previously Presented) A steam generator comprising:

- substantially rigid, generally tubular means for containing a fluid;
- means for converting contained water to steam located in the containing means;
- means for inletting water into the containing means;
- means for outletting a fluid from the containing means located on the containing means;

and

- means for storing water, at a level approximately equal to a level of water in the containing means located outside the containing means in fluid communication with the containing means.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Canceled)

22. (Canceled)

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